

635289

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

25X1A

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT 1 to 8 April 1954DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 6 May 1954REFERENCES 25X1APAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

SOURCE

25X1X

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 1 and 8 April 1954:

1 April. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s practiced flying. Two elements of two MiG-15s took off. During the afternoon air activity continued. The weather was fair.

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7 and 8 April. Between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., no air activity was observed. The weather was hazy. Ten MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s, _____ were parked in front of the hangars. 1

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2. In early April, the Token type radar sets and the auxiliary motor vehicles, which had been observed at the field in late March, had been removed. From groups of soldiers repeatedly observed proceeding from the direction of Badegast toward Koethen, source inferred that the radar set had been moved to a place outside the airfield area. 2
3. In addition to the personnel previously stationed at the field, 22- to 25-year-old officers were apparently newly assigned to the unit stationed there. Vacated apartments had been occupied by Soviet dependents. Source had the impression that they were newcomers. 3
4. Since late March, excavating work, apparently for a brick structure, has been under way in the southeastern corner of the field between the aircraft revetments and the fence, in an area covered with brushwood. In addition, ground, 6 meters long and about 50 cm deep, had been excavated at the eastern edge of the field.

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SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

25X1B

6. On 2 April, 16 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s and 2 single-engine monoplanes were parked at the field, the two latter in front of a hangar. About 3 p.m., one of the single-engine monoplanes took off. There was night flying by swept-back jet fighters which was interrupted at 10 p.m. when rain set in. During night flying a directional searchlight was in operation.¹ Soviet dependents newly arrived in Koethen. 3

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2. Comment. Same source observed the Token type radar set for the first time on 12 March 1954, and its removal on 22 March 1954.

25X1A

Redegast the alleged new location of the set is about 3.5 km southeast of Koethen.

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3. Comment. The arrival of new personnel, probably of young pilots, was also reported from Brandis airfield. The arrival of Soviet dependents was last reported in January 1954.

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